

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 08971 111623Z

44

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CG-00 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 AID-05

CEQ-01 COA-01 COME-00 EB-04 EPA-01 IO-10 NSF-01

OES-02 FEAE-00 ACDA-05 CEA-01 AEC-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01 /133 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 869

INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 416

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 8971

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS: CONSULTATIONS WITH IVORY COAST

1. SUMMARY: GOIC OFFICIAL STATED GHANA AND SENEGAL HAVE DECIDED TO EXTEND UNILATERALLY TO 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. IVORY COAST CONTINUES TO SUPPORT EARLY ADOPTION OF LOS TREATY. END SUMMARY.

2. ON NOVEMBER 9 LOS SPECIALIST NORDQUIST AND EMBASSY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OFFICERS MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH DR. LUC KOFFI, GOIC DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES. KOFFI IS PROBABLY THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE LOS EXPERT IN IVORY COAST. HE WAS CANDID IN THESE CONSULTATIONS AND SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO US VIEWS.

3. US FISHERIES POSITION WAS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL. KOFFI
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 08971 111623Z

REPONDED BY SAYING HE PERSONALLY SUPPORTED CONCEPTS OF

MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD AND FULL UTILIZATION. IVORY COAST AGREED WITH CONCEPT OF SPECIES APPROACH AND FELF COASTAL STATE SHOULD HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO COASTAL STOCKS. WHILE IVORIANS HAD NO REAL INTEREST IN ANADROMOUS FISH, AS A SCIENTIST HE BELIEVED THESE STOCKS COULD BE MOST EFFECTIVELY MANAGED BY STATE IN WHICH STOCKS SPAWN. WITH RESPECT TO TUNA, KOFFI STATED THAT IVORY COAST HAD IMPORTED 55,000 METRIC TONS OF FISH IN 1973, RESULTING IN THREE BILLION CFA OF EXCHANGE LOSSES, AND THAT GOIC GOPED TO MAKE UP FOR THIS LOSS BY CATCHING MORE TUNA, CANNING IT AND RESELLING IT ON THE WORLD MARKET. IVORY COAST HAD TAKEN NO POSITION ON QUESTION OF TUNA ALLOCATION PRIORITIES WITH COASTAL STATE ECONOMIC ZONE. KOFFI SAID HE WILL BE ATTENDING NORTH ATLANTIC TUNA COMMISSION MEETING IN MADRID WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18.

4. KOFFI OBSERVED THAT IVORY COAST WAS CONSERVATIVE ON TERRITORIAL SEA AND DID NOT WANT THE LIMIT EXTENDED BEYOND 12 MILES. HOWEVER, THERE WERE DIFFERING VIEWS ON LIMIT QUESTION IN OAU AND CONSENSUS ONLY EXISTED ON 200 MILE FIGURE PER SE. IVORY COAST HAS NO VESTED INTEREST IN STRAITS BUT SUPPORT OAU POSITION OF INNOCENT PASSAGE TO FOSTER SOLIDARITY IN OAU. HE REMARKED "AFTER ALL, THERE ARE A LOT OF ARABS IN THE OAU."

5. IVORY COAST WAS NOT STRONG SUPPORTER OF ECONOMIC ZONE BUT SINCE ONE WAS GOING TO BE ACCEPTED ANYWAY, IT SHOULD PROVIDE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO COASTAL STATES. A PRECONDITION WOULD BE THE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF THE LATERAL LINES OF DEMARKATION. IT WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THIS EXCLUSIVITY IF COASTAL STATE WERE NOT GIVEN POWER TO AUTHORIZE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. KOFFI STATED THAT IVORY COAST WOULD NOT EXTEND ITS MARITIME BOUNDARIES UNILATERALLY PRIOR TO LOS TREATY. HOWEVER, IN PARIS LAST WEEK, HE HAD LEARNED FROM THEIR REPRESENTATIVES THAT BOTH GHANA AND SENEGAL PLANNED TO EXTEND UNILATERALLY THEIR ECONOMIC ZONES OUT TO 200 MILES. GHANA'S LEGISLATION WAS ALREADY DRAFTED AND WOULD BE ENACTED "WITHIN THREE MONTHS." SENEGAL HAD DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO EXTEND UNILATERALLY TO 200, BUT HAD NOT YET DRAFTED NECESSARY LEGISLATION.

6. KOFFI SAID IVORIANS ORIGINALLY FAVORED OAU POSITION ON
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ABIDJA 08971 111623Z

DEEP SEABED AS THEY SUPPORTED EXPLOITATION BY AUTHORITY ITSELF BUT NOW FEEL MORE FLEXIBLE ON THIS POINT. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION OF HOW DIRECT EXPLOITATION WAS UPRACTICAL EXPECTATION, KOFFI INTIMATED THAT COMPROMISE MIGHT BE FOUND BY MIXED SYSTEM, PERHAPS THROUGH JOINT VENTURES BETWEEN LICENSED COMPANIES AND MULTI-NATIONAL ORGAIZATIONS.

7. IVORY COAST STRONGLY SUPPORTS BOTH NECESSITY FOR LOS

TREATY AND CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS TO BRING ORDER TO
PRESENT CHAOTIC SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF EIGHT
WEEKS IN GENEVA WERE NOT ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH IN 1975, KOFFI
STATED IVORY COAST WOULD BE FLEXIALBE ABOUT MEANS TO SECURE
ADEQUATE TIME IN 1975.

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